TL4694

AETA MEDIA RELEASE

Australia-East Timor Association
PO Box 93, Fitzroy 3065

9 April 1999

Demonstration to call for urgent action on East Timor

Tomorrow, Saturday 10 April members of Melbourne's East Timorese community and Australian and visiting international supporters of self-determination for East Timor will rally at **Parliament House** in Spring St at **11.30 am**.

The brutal massacres perpetrated this week in the town of Liquiça by armed militias and their masters, the Indonesian armed forces in East Timor, cannot be allowed to continue.

The rally will call on the Australian Government to bring maximum pressure to bear on President Habibie and General Wiranto to disarm and disband the paramilitary groups in East Timor to allow the UN process of consultation on the future of the territory to take place in a non-violent atmosphere.

It will call on the United Nations to take urgent steps to prevent the situation in East Timor from deteriorating into warfare and chaos - the probable objective of certain groups within the Indonesian military.

It will deplore the Indonesian Government's decision to postpone the UN-sponsored talks scheduled for later this month which will inevitably cost the lives of many East Timorese.

Speakers will include Lindsay Tanner, Shadow Minister for Finance and ALP MHR for Melbourne and representatives of various international organisations meeting in Melbourne this week on the future of East Timor.

The event has been organised by CNRT (National Council of Timorese Resistance), AETA (Australia-East Timor Association), ASIET (Action in Solidarity with Indonesia and East Timor) and USET (University Students for East Timor).

For further information telephone AETA Secretary John Sinnott: on 9489 7661 (H) or 9416 2960 (W) or CNRT Spokesperson Joaquim Santos on 9700 7235.